

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 610

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Cari S. Ashford on her selection as Teacher of the Year at Morristown-Hamblen High School West.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Cari S. Ashford is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ashford was recently selected as Teacher of the Year for Morristown-Hamblen High School West, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, an inspirational educator, Ms. Ashford obtained her bachelor's degree at the University of Tennessee, at which she has also undertaken post-graduate studies; and

WHEREAS, a longtime employee with Hamblen County Schools, she joined the faculty at West High in 2002, having previously taught at Lincoln Middle School and East High. She currently serves as the FACS department head, a TNN Advisory Team member, and, since 2003, a new teacher mentor; and

WHEREAS, West High's teacher of Teen Leadership, Teaching as a Profession, and Housing and Interior Design, Cari Ashford has been the designer/coordinator for the Link Up for Literacy Reading and Mentoring Program since 2008; and

WHEREAS, she also served as a staff professional development workshop presenter, made presentations at the Career and Technical Education Roundtable, and stood as a co-chair of the Hamblen County FACS Textbook Adoption Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ashford has graciously volunteered her time to numerous scholastic efforts, including service as a varsity cheerleading coach at West High and East High, an

evaluator for the Tennessee Secondary School Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and as an advisor for FCCLA, winning the 15 Years Advisory award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ashford is a distinguished member of Alpha Delta Kappa Education Fraternity for Women Educators, serving as Chapter Chaplain for two years and member of the scholarship committee for six years; and

WHEREAS, she is a faithful member of Manley Baptist Church, where she serves as a Bible drill volunteer, works with the student ministry, and as the former director of the Vacation Bible School; and

WHEREAS, an active mother of two sons, Ms. Ashford has served on the board of the Hillcrest PTO and has served on the parent groups at Alpha, West View, and West High schools; and

WHEREAS, a caring and compassionate individual, Cari Ashford was a school project coordinator of the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief efforts for Hugo and Katrina and saw duty as a member of the Red Cross Board of Directors. She also supports Central Services, Calloway Christmas, Operation Christmas Child, the Boys and Girls Club, and Pennies for the Homeless; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ashford truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Cari Ashford epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Cari S. Ashford on being chosen as Teacher of the Year at Morristown-Hamblen High School West, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.